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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/873,709

Applicant(s)

GILBERT, LANNY

Examiner

TOAN D. NGUYEN

Art Unit

2416

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 September 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 3-11, 19-26 and 28-30 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 3-11, 19-26 and 28-30 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 04 June 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 09/05/08 has been entered.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments filed 09/05/08 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

The applicant argues with respect to claim 1 on page 11, third paragraph that none of Wu, Hogan, Culbreth and Palmer teaches "wherein the call control engine is configured to reject the future audio conference request in response to the future audio conference lacking at least one additional future audio conference call party number for at least one participant party." The examiner disagrees. Wu clearly teaches at col. 10, lines 30-34 (figure 9A, reference 902) in the following passage: "At 902 a determination is made as to whether all the responses have been received from the selected participants or if a pre-established time limit for receipt of those responses has expired." If not all the responses have been received from the selected participants (figure 9A, reference NO) then the process return to START (figure 9a, reference 900)(wherein the call control engine is configured to reject the future audio conference request in

response to the future audio conference lacking at least one additional future audio conference call party number for at least one participant party means). Culbreth et al. in view of Wu further teaches at col. 5, lines 34-37 (figure 1, reference 150) in the cited passage: "At this point, Mary may choose to decide on a new time and send a new message, since not everyone will be able to attend at the time she requested (wherein the call control engine is configured to reject the future audio conference request in response to the future audio conference lacking at least one additional future audio conference call party number for at least one participant party means).

The applicant argues with respect to claim 1 on page 11, third paragraph that Wu does not teach the limitation "wherein upon expiration of a .pre-determined timer setting, indicating that the conference call is to be placed, the call control engine retrieves the future audio conference request information from the conference call database, the future audio conference request information including an entry for the conference call and timer, the expiration of which indicating that the conference call is to be placed thereby enabling the call facility to begin placing audio connections; wherein the call control engine sets up the future audio conference upon at least one of the expiration of the timers in the timer facility, and a polling of the conference call database to determine whether it is time to retrieve the future audio conference request information and set up the future audio conference." The examiner disagrees. Wu clearly teaches at col. 10, lines 34-37 (figure 9A, reference 904)(also see Applicant's specification on page 8, lines 9-11). Therefore, Wu does teach the limitation as cited in claim 1.

The applicant argues on page 12, third paragraph that claims 19, 23, and 26 recites features similar to those discussed above with reference to claim 1, and are patentable over Wu and Hogan and Culbreth and Palmer for at least the reasons advanced with reference to claim 1. The examiner disagrees. Claim 1 is rejected, therefore, claims 19, 23, and 26 recites features similar to those discussed above with reference to claim 1 are also rejected.

The applicant argues with respect to claims 9-10 on page 13, third paragraph that Roy fails to cure the deficiencies of Wu and Hogan and Culbreth and Palmer as discuss with reference to claim 1, and claims 9 and 10 depend from claim 1 and are patentable over Wu and Hogan and Culbreth and Palmer in view of Roy for at least the reasons advanced with respect to claim 1. The examiner disagrees. The examiner refers to the same response with respect to claim 1 above.

The applicant argues on page 13, fourth paragraph that claims 29 and 30 depend from claim 26 and are patentable over Wu and Hogan and Culbreth and Palmer in view of Buskirk, Jr. for at least the reasons advanced with respect to claim 26. The examiner disagrees. The examiner refers to the same response with respect to claim 26 above.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1, 3-8, 11, 19-26, and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wu (US 6,275,575) in view of Hogan et al. (US 5,483,587) and Culbreth et al. (US 5,953,393) further in view of Palmer et al. (US 5,546,324).

For claim 1, Wu discloses method and system for coordinating and initiating cross-platform telephone conferences, said system comprising:

a call control engine (figure 1, reference 102) for receiving a future audio conference request from the host party (coordinator means) (col. 5, lines 25-29 and col. 5, lines 45-53), the future audio conference request being received in the control engine from at least one of a land-line telephone via a telephone call, a wireless device via a wireless transmission, and a computer via a web interface (col. 5, lines 10-24) configured to receive a confirmation screen whereby the user can make corrections related to the future audio conference request (figure 8, reference step 806, col. 10, lines 13-15);

wherein the future audio conference request includes a meeting host phone number (col. 8, lines 4-9);

wherein the call control engine is configured to reject the future audio conference request in response to a passing of the future audio conference (figure 9a, reference step 902, col. 10, lines 30-34), and

wherein the call control engine is configured to reject the future audio conference request in response to the future audio conference lacking at least one additional future audio conference call party number for at least one participant party (figure 9A, reference 902, col. 10, lines 30-34);

a conference call database (figure 1, reference 103) having a plurality of entries, wherein audio conference information associated with the future audio conference request is stored in one of entries (col. 5, lines 25-29);

a call facility (figure 1, reference 106) for making audio connections, according to the future audio conference request, to the host party (coordinator means) and at least one participant party (figure 1, references 116, 142a-c) (col. 5, line 57 to col. 6, line 6), said call facility (figure 1, reference 106) first attempting an audio connection to the host party (coordinator means) (figure 4A, reference 412 Primary Time and Secondary Time, col. 9, lines 21-25 and col. 10, lines 39-41) and making an audio connection to the at least one participant party (col. 10, lines 51-53 where the telephone conference server then initiates calls to connect participants and coordinator); and

a timer facility having one or more timers for being set when the future audio conference request is created by the host party, wherein upon expiration of a .pre-determined timer setting, indicating that the conference call is to be placed, the call control engine retrieves the future audio conference request information from the conference call database, the future audio conference request information including an entry for the conference call (col. 8, lines 38-49) and timer (figure 4A, reference 412, col. 8, lines 30-31 or figure 5B, reference 502, col. 9, lines 53-55), the expiration of which indicating that the conference call is to be placed thereby enabling the call facility to begin placing audio connections (figure 9A, col. 10, lines 34-43);

wherein the call control engine sets up the future audio conference upon at least one of the expiration of the timers in the timer facility, and a polling of the conference

call database to determine whether it is time to retrieve the future audio conference request information and set up the lucre audio conference (col. 10, lines 34-53);

Wu does not expressly disclose making an audio connection to the at least one participant after the host party has answered the audio connection. To make an audio connection to the at least one participant after the host party has answer the audio connection would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art because the host party is the most important element of the conference that setup and control the conference call. Therefore, the host party must be call first so that any participants that answer the call can be connected to the host party.

Wu does not expressly disclose the call facility including a common channel signaling system (CCSS). In an analogous art, Hogan et al. disclose the call facility including a common channel signaling system (CCSS) (figure 3, reference 124) (col. 5, lines 30-32).

Hogan et al. disclose further a call bridging facility (figure 9, reference 908) for bridging the audio connections between the host party and at least one participant (col. 10, lines 44-45); and wherein the call control engine provides the host party with a meeting confirmation number associated with the future audio conference request, the call control engine changing or canceling the future audio conference request in response to receiving the meeting confirmation number with a request to change or cancel the future audio conference request (figure 15, reference step 1522, col. 15, lines 33-47).

One skilled in the art would have recognized the call facility including a common channel signaling system (CCSS), and would have applied Hogan et al.'s signaling channel in Wu's coordinating server device. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention, to use Hogan et al.'s system and method for call conferencing in Wu's method and system for coordinating and initiating cross-platform telephone conferences with the motivation being to provide signaling channel 124 to transmit call data 144 (col. 5, lines 23).

However, Wu in view of Hogan et al. does not expressly disclose wherein if one or more participant parties are unavailable for initial audio connection, then said call facility automatically re-attempts audio connection to said one or more participant parties unavailable for initial audio connection a predetermined number of times before dropping said one or more participant parties unavailable for initial audio connection. In an analogous art, Culbreth et al. disclose wherein if one or more participant parties are unavailable for initial audio connection, then said call facility automatically re-attempts audio connection to said one or more participant parties unavailable for initial audio connection a predetermined number of times before dropping said one or more participant parties unavailable for initial audio connection (figure 1, reference step 130, col. 5 lines 1-5, col. 5, lines 34-35, and col. 9, lines 10-18).

One skilled in the art would have recognized the call facility automatically re-attempts audio connection to said one or more participant parties unavailable for initial audio connection a predetermined number of times before dropping said one or more participant parties unavailable for initial audio connection, and would have applied

Culbreth et al.'s call facility in Wu's coordinating server device. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention, to use Culbreth et al.'s personal telephony agent in Wu's method and system for coordinating and initiating cross-platform telephone conferences with the motivation being to reserve a room and send a confirmation message to the team (col. 5, lines 38-39).

Furthermore, Wu in view of Hogan et al. and Culbreth et al. does not expressly disclose:

wherein, if the host is unavailable the call control engine disconnects and at least one of removes the audio conference information associated with the future audio conference request from the conference call database, and retries the host before canceling the conference call; and

wherein the information associated with the future audio conference request is removed from the conference call database in response to the bridging facility the audio connections between the host party and the at least one participant.

In an analogous art, Palmer et al. disclose:

wherein, if the host is unavailable the call control engine disconnects and at least one of removes the audio conference information associated with the future audio conference request from the conference call database (figure 20, reference 600, col. 18, lines 16-21) (col. 18, lines 33-35), and retries the host before canceling the conference call (col. 18, lines 61-65); and

wherein the information associated with the future audio conference request is removed from the conference call database in response to the bridging facility the audio

connections between the host party and the at least one participant (col. 18, lines 33-35).

One skilled in the art would have recognized the wherein, if the host is unavailable the call control engine disconnects and at least one of removes the audio conference information associated with the future audio conference request from the conference call database, and would have applied Palmer et al.'s DECspin application in Wu's coordinating server device. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention, to use Palmer et al.'s video teleconferencing for networked workstations in Wu's method and system for coordinating and initiating cross-platform telephone conferences with the motivation being to provide the user for further instructions, such as retry or cancel (col. 18, lines 61-65).

For claim 3, Wu discloses wherein the future audio conference request includes: a future meeting time, a host destination, and at least one participant destination (figure 4A-C, col. 8, line 24 to col. 9, line 29).

For claim 4, Wu discloses wherein the host destination is a telephone number (figure 1, reference 116, col. 7, lines 2-5 where telephone 116 including a telephone number).

For claim 5, Wu discloses wherein the at least one participant party destination is a telephone number (figure 4A, reference 408, col. 8, lines 7-14, and col. 8, line 63 to col. 9, line 11).

For claim 6, Wu discloses wherein the audio connections are made through a public switched telephone network (figure 1, reference 112, col. 5, lines 12-13).

For claim 7, Wu discloses wherein the host destination is an e-mail address (figure 4B, reference 440, col. 9, lines 12-17).

For claim 8, Wu discloses wherein the at least one participant party destination is an e-mail address (figure 4A, reference 408, col. 8, lines 28-31, and col. 8, line 63 to col. 9, line 11).

For claim 11, Wu discloses wherein the audio connections are made through an Internet (figure 1, reference 124, col. 7, lines 5-8).

For claim 19, Wu discloses method and system for coordinating and initiating cross-platform telephone conferences, the method comprising:

receiving a future audio conference call request from the host party (coordinator means)(col. 5, lines 45-53), the conference request being received in the control engine from at least one of a land-line telephone via a telephone call, a wireless device via a wireless transmission, and a computer via a web interface (col. 5, lines 10-24) configured to receive a confirmation screen whereby the user can make corrections related to the future audio conference request (figure 8, reference step 806, col. 10, lines 13-15); and prompting the host party (coordinator means) on a communication device (figure 2A, reference 200) for audio conference information associated with the future audio conference call request (figure 4A, col. 7, lines 38-50, and col. 8, lines 24-29), wherein the future audio conference request includes a meeting host phone number (col. 8, lines 4-9),

wherein the call control engine is configured to reject the future audio conference request in response to a passing of the future audio conference (figure 9a, reference step 902, col. 10, lines 30-34),

wherein the call control engine is configured to reject the future audio conference request in response to the future audio conference lacking at least one additional future audio conference call party number for at least one participant party (figure 9A, reference 902, col. 10, lines 30-34), and

wherein the audio conference information includes

a future meeting time (figure 4A, reference 412 Primary Time and Secondary Time, col. 8, lines 28-31, and col. 9, lines 21-25);

a host party destination (figure 4A, col. 8, lines 24-49, and col. 8, lines 63-65),
and

at least one participant party destination (figure 4A, reference 408, col. 8, lines 38-62);

storing the future audio conference call request in a database entry (col. 5, lines 25-29, and col. 5, lines 45-53);

retrieving the database entry, including a timer, the expiration of which indicating that the conference call is to be placed (figure 4A, reference 412, col. 8, lines 30-31 or figure 5B, reference 502, col. 9, lines 53-55) at the future meeting time (figure 4A, col. 8, lines 41-62), in response to at least one of an expiration of a timer in a timer facility, indicating that the conference call is to be placed, the timer being set when the future audio conference request is created by the host party, and a polling of the conference

call database to determine whether it is time to retrieve the future audio conference request information and set up the future audio conference (col. 10, lines 34-53);

attempting to connect the host party destination at the future meeting time via a call facility (figure 1, reference 106) (figure 4A, reference 412 Primary Time and Secondary Time, col. 9, lines 21-25, and col. 10, lines 39-41),

connecting the at least one participant party destination (col. 10, lines 51-53 where the telephone conference server then initiates calls to connect participants and coordinator).

Wu does not expressly disclose connecting the at least one participant party destination if the host party destination establishes a connection. To connect the at least one participant party destination if the host party destination establishes a connection would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art because the host party is the most important element of the conference that setup and control the conference call. Therefore, the host party destination must be established a connection so that the at least one participant destination that answer the call can be connected to the host party destination.

Wu does not expressly disclose bridging the host party destination to the at least one participant party destination. In an analogous art, Hogan et al. disclose bridging (figure 9, reference 908) the host party destination to the at least one participant party destination (col. 10, lines 44-45).

Hogan et al. disclose further providing the host party with a meeting confirmation number associated with the future audio conference request, changing or canceling the

future audio conference request in response to receiving the meeting confirmation number with a request to change or cancel the future audio conference request (figure 15, reference step 1522, col. 15, lines 33-47).

One skilled in the art would have recognized the bridging the host party destination to the at least one participant party destination, and would have applied Hogan et al.'s conference bridge in Wu's coordinating server device. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention, to use Hogan et al.'s system and method for call conferencing in Wu's method and system for coordinating and initiating cross-platform telephone conferences with the motivation being to bridge the conference participants together on the conference call (col. 10, lines 44-45).

However, Wu in view of Hogan et al. does not expressly disclose wherein if one or more participant parties are unavailable for initial audio connection, then said call facility automatically re-attempts audio connection to said one or more participant parties unavailable for initial audio connection a predetermined number of times before dropping said one or more participant parties unavailable for initial audio connection. In an analogous art, Culbreth et al. disclose wherein if one or more participant parties are unavailable for initial audio connection, then said call facility automatically re-attempts audio connection to said one or more participant parties unavailable for initial audio connection a predetermined number of times before dropping said one or more participant parties unavailable for initial audio connection (figure 1, reference step 130, col. 5, lines 1-5, col. 5, lines 34-35, and col. 9, lines 10-18).

One skilled in the art would have recognized the call facility automatically re-attempts audio connection to said one or more participant parties unavailable for initial audio connection a predetermined number of times before dropping said one or more participant parties unavailable for initial audio connection, and would have applied Culbreth et al.'s call facility in Wu's coordinating server device. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention, to use Culbreth et al.'s personal telephony agent in Wu's method and system for coordinating and initiating cross-platform telephone conferences with the motivation being to reserve a room and send a confirmation message to the team (col. 5, lines 38-39).

Furthermore, Wu in view of Hogan et al. and Culbreth et al. does not expressly disclose:

wherein, if the host is unavailable the call control engine disconnects and at least one of removes the audio conference information associated with the future audio conference request from the conference call database, and retries the host before canceling the conference call; and

wherein the information associated with the future audio conference request is removed from the conference call database in response to the bridging facility the audio connections between the host party and the at least one participant.

In an analogous art, Palmer et al. disclose:

wherein, if the host is unavailable the call control engine disconnects and at least one of removes the audio conference information associated with the future audio conference request from the conference call database (figure 20, reference 600, col. 18,

lines 16-21) (col. 18, lines 33-35), and retries the host before canceling the conference call (col. 18, lines 61-65); and

wherein the information associated with the future audio conference request is removed from the conference call database in response to the bridging facility the audio connections between the host party and the at least one participant (col. 18, lines 33-35).

One skilled in the art would have recognized the wherein, if the host is unavailable the call control engine disconnects and at least one of removes the audio conference information associated with the future audio conference request from the conference call database, and would have applied Palmer et al.'s DECspin application in Wu's coordinating server device. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention, to use Palmer et al.'s video teleconferencing for networked workstations in Wu's method and system for coordinating and initiating cross-platform telephone conferences with the motivation being to provide the user for further instructions, such as retry or cancel (col. 18, lines 61-65).

For claim 20, Wu discloses wherein bridging the host party destination (figure 1, reference 120) to the at least one participant party destination (figure 1, reference 116) is accomplished on a telephone switch (figure 1, reference 112 where the telephone switch is located within the PSTN) (col. 5, lines 12-16).

For claim 21, Wu discloses wherein connecting the host party destination is accomplished through an Internet (figure 1, reference 124, col. 7, lines 5-8).

For claim 22, Wu discloses wherein the setting of the timer (figure 4A, reference 412, col. 8, lines 28-31), and associating the timer to the database entry (col. 8, lines 38-59).

For claim 23, Wu discloses method and system for coordinating and initiating cross-platform telephone conferences, the method comprising:

receiving a future audio conference call request from the host party (coordinator means)(col. 5, lines 45-53), the future audio conference request being received in the control engine from a communication device including any of a land-line telephone via a telephone call, a wireless device via a wireless transmission, and a computer via a web interface (col. 5, lines 10-24) configured to receive a confirmation screen whereby the user can make corrections related to the future audio conference request (figure 8, reference step 806, col. 10, lines 13-15), wherein the future audio conference request includes a meeting host phone number (col. 8, lines 4-9); and

wherein the call control engine is configured to reject the future audio conference request in response to a passing of the future audio conference (figure 9a, reference step 902, col. 10, lines 30-34), and

wherein the call control engine is configured to reject the future audio conference request in response to the future audio conference lacking at least one additional future audio conference call party number for at least one participant party (figure 9A, reference 902, col. 10, lines 30-34);

prompting the host party (coordinator means) on a communication device (figure 2A, reference 200) for audio conference information associated with the future audio

conference request (figure 4A, col. 7, lines 38-50, and col. 8, lines 24-29), wherein the future audio conference information includes

- a future meeting time (figure 4A, reference 412 Primary Time and Secondary Time, col. 8, lines 28-31, and col. 9, lines 21-25);

- a host party destination (figure 4A, col. 8, lines 24-29, and col. 8, lines 63-65),
and

- at least one participant party destination (figure 4A, reference 408, col. 8, lines 38-62);

- storing the future audio conference information in a database entry (col. 5, lines 25-29, and col. 5, lines 45-53);

- retrieving the database entry, including a timer, the expiration of which indicating that the reference call is to be placed (figure 4A, reference 412, col. 8, lines 30-31 or figure 5B, reference 502, col. 9, lines 53-55), at the future meeting time (figure 4A, col. 8, lines 41-62), in response to at least one of an expiration of a timer in a timer facility, indicating that the conference call is to be placed, the timer being set when the future audio conference request is created by the host party, and a polling of the conference call database to determine whether it is time to retrieve the future audio conference request information and set up the future audio conference (col. 10, lines 34-53);

- attempting to connect the host party destination via a call facility (figure 1, reference 106) (figure 4A, reference 412 Primary Time and Secondary Time, col. 9, lines 21-25 and col. 10 lines 39-41);

connecting the at least one participant party destination (col. 10, lines 51-53 where the telephone conference server then initiates to connect participants and coordinator).

Wu does not expressly disclose connecting the at least one participant party destination if the host party destination establishes a connection. To connect the at least one participant party destination if the host party destination establishes a connection would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art because the host party is the most important element of the conference that setup and control the conference call. Therefore, the host party destination must be established a connection so that the at least participant party destination that answer the call can be connected to the host party destination.

Wu does not expressly disclose bridging the host party destination to the at least one participant party destination. In an analogous art, Hogan et al. disclose bridging (figure 9, reference 908) the host party destination to the at least one participant party destination (col. 10, lines 44-45). Hogan et al. disclose further providing the host party with a meeting confirmation number associated with the future audio conference request, changing or canceling the future audio conference request in response to receiving the meeting confirmation number with a request to change or cancel the future audio conference request (figure 15, reference step 1522, col. 15, lines 33-47).

One skilled in the art would have recognized the bridging the host party destination to the at least one participant party destination, and would have applied Hogan et al.'s conference bridge in Wu's coordinating server device. Therefore, it would

have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention, to use Hogan et al.'s system and method for call conferencing in Wu's method and system for coordinating and initiating cross-platform telephone conferences with the motivation being to bridge the conference participants together on the conference call (col. 10, lines 44-45).

However, Wu in view of Hogan et al. does not expressly disclose wherein if one or more participant parties are unavailable for initial audio connection, then said call facility automatically re-attempts audio connection to said one or more participant parties unavailable for initial audio connection a predetermined number of times before dropping said one or more participant parties unavailable for initial audio connection. In an analogous art, Culbreth et al. disclose wherein if one or more participant parties are unavailable for initial audio connection, then said call facility automatically re-attempts audio connection to said one or more participant parties unavailable for initial audio connection a predetermined number of times before dropping said one or more participant parties unavailable for initial audio connection (figure 1, reference step 130, col. 5, lines 1-5, col. 5, lines 34-35, and col. 9, lines 10-18).

One skilled in the art would have recognized the call facility automatically re-attempts audio connection to said one or more participant parties unavailable for initial audio connection a predetermined number of times before dropping said one or more participant parties unavailable for initial audio connection, and would have applied Culbreth et al.'s call facility in Wu's coordinating server device. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention, to use

Culbreth et al.'s personal telephony agent in Wu's method and system for coordinating and initiating cross-platform telephone conferences with the motivation being to reserve a room and send a confirmation message to the team (col. 5, lines 38-39).

Furthermore, Wu in view of Hogan et al. and Culbreth et al. does not expressly disclose:

wherein, if the host is unavailable the call control engine disconnects and at least one of removes the audio conference information associated with the future audio conference request from the conference call database, and retries the host before canceling the conference call; and

wherein the information associated with the future audio conference request is removed from the conference call database in response to the bridging facility the audio connections between the host party and the at least one participant.

In an analogous art, Palmer et al. disclose:

wherein, if the host is unavailable the call control engine disconnects and at least one of removes the audio conference information associated with the future audio conference request from the conference call database (figure 20, reference 600, col. 18, lines 16-21) (col. 18, lines 33-35), and retries the host before canceling the conference call (col. 18, lines 61-65); and

wherein the information associated with the future audio conference request is removed from the conference call database in response to the bridging facility the audio connections between the host party and the at least one participant (col. 18, lines 33-35).

One skilled in the art would have recognized the wherein, if the host is unavailable the call control engine disconnects and at least one of removes the audio conference information associated with the future audio conference request from the conference call database, and would have applied Palmer et al.'s DECspin application in Wu's coordinating server device. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention, to use Palmer et al.'s video teleconferencing for networked workstations in Wu's method and system for coordinating and initiating cross-platform telephone conferences with the motivation being to provide the user for further instructions, such as retry or cancel (col. 18, lines 61-65).

For claim 24, Wu discloses further comprising:

setting the timer (figure 4A, reference 412 Primary Time and Secondary Time, col. 8, lines 28-31), and

associating the timer to the database entry (col. 8, lines 38-59).

For claim 25, Wu discloses wherein the wireless device is a cellular telephone (figure 5A, reference 500) having a display (figure 5A, reference 504) for receiving the prompting for the audio conference information associated with the future audio conference call request and having a keypad (figure 5A, reference 508) for sending the audio conference information (figure 5A-B, col. 9, lines 40-59).

For claim 26, Wu discloses method and system for coordinating and initiating cross-platform telephone conferences, comprising:

a call set-up system (figure 1, reference 100) having a timer facility (figure 4A, reference 412 Primary Time and Secondary Time, col. 8, lines 30-31), a call facility (figure 1, reference 106) (col. 5, line 64 to col. 6, line 6), a call control engine (figure 1, reference 102) (col. 5, lines 25-29, and col. 5, lines 45-53), and a conference call database (figure 1, reference 103) (col. 5, lines 26-29), the call set-up system being connected to a public switched telephone network (PSTN)(figure 1, reference 112, col. 5, lines 12-13), and to an Internet (figure 1, reference 124, col. 7, lines 5-8), the PSTN including at least one public switch and conferencing hardware (figure 1, reference 112 where the public switch is located within the PSTN) (col. 5, lines 12-16), the call set-up system being accessible to by a plurality of communication devices (figure 1, references 116, 120, 142a-c, col. 5 line 15-18), in response to at least one of a land-line telephone via a telephone call, the telephone being connect to a public switch, the public switch being connected to the PSTN, a wireless device via a wireless transmission, and a computer via a web interface (col. 5, lines 10-24) configured to receive a confirmation screen whereby the user can make corrections related to the future audio conference request (figure 8, reference step 806, col. 10, lines 13-15), wherein a call control engine is configured to reject the future audio conference request in response to a passing of the future audio conference (figure 9a, reference step 902, col. 10, lines 30-34), the call set-up system to perform a method, including:

prompting for teleconference information on the communication device (figure 2A, reference 200, and figure 4A, col. 7, lines 38-50, and col. 8, lines 24-49), the teleconference information including a teleconference data and time (figure 4A,

reference 412 Primary Time and Secondary Time, reference 408 Date (mm/dd/yyyy), col. 8 lines 29-31), a host telephone number (figure 1, reference 116, col. 7, lines 2-5 where host telephone 116 including a telephone number)(figure 4A, reference 408, col. 8, lines 7-14, and col. 8, line 63 to col. 9, line 11),

wherein the call control engine is configured to reject the future audio conference request in response to the future audio conference lacking at least one additional future audio conference call party number for at least one participant party (figure 9A, reference 902, col. 10, lines 30-34);

receiving the teleconference information (col. 5, lines 45-53);

storing the teleconference information in the conference database (col. 5, lines 25-29, and col. 5, lines 45-53), the teleconference information including an entry for the teleconference (col. 8, lines 38-49) and a timer, the expiration of which indicating that the teleconference is to be started (figure 4A, reference 412, col. 8, lines 30-31 or figure 5B, reference 502, col. 9, lines 53-55);

retrieving the teleconference information at the teleconference date and time (figure 4A-B, col. 8, lines 41-62, and col. 9, lines 11-25), in response to at least one of an expiration of a timer in the timer facility, the timer being set when the future audio conference request is created by the host party, and the timer expiring when the conference call is to be placed (figure 5B, reference 502, col. 9, lines 53-55), and a polling of the conference call database to determine whether it is time to retrieve the future audio conference request information and set up the future audio conference (col.10, lines 34-53);

placing a host call to the host telephone number at the conference date and time (col. 9, lines 21-25, col. 10, lines 39-43, and col. 10, lines 51-53 where the telephone conference server then initiates calls to connect participants and coordinator);

placing at least one participant call to the at least one participant telephone number (col. 10, lines 51-53 where the telephone conference server then initiates calls to connect participants and coordinator).

Wu does not expressly disclose after receiving a first answer at the host telephone number and after receiving at least one second answer at the at least one participant telephone number. To receive a first answer at the host telephone number and after receiving at least one second answer at the at least one participant telephone number would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art because the host party is the most important element of the conference that setup and control the conference call. Therefore, the host telephone number must be call first so that the at least one participant telephone number that answer the call can be connected to the host telephone number.

Wu does not expressly disclose a bridge facility, having access to a common channel signaling system (CCSS) and bridging the host call and the at least one participant call. In an analogous art, Hogan et al. disclose a bridge facility (figure 9, reference 908, col. 10, line 44), having access to a common channel signaling system (CCSS) (figure 3, reference 124)(col. 5, lines 30-32). Hogan et al. disclose further wherein the control engine provides the host party with a meeting confirmation number associated with the future audio conference request, the call control engine changing or

canceling the future audio conference request in response to receiving the meeting confirmation number with a request to change or cancel the future audio conference request (figure 15, reference step 1522, col. 15, lines 33-47).

One skilled in the art would have recognized the bridge facility, and would have applied Hogan et al.'s conference bridge in Wu's coordinating server device. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention, to use Hogan et al.'s system and method for call conferencing in Wu's method and system for coordinating and initiating cross-platform telephone conferences with the motivation being to bridge the conference participants together on the conference call (col. 10, lines 44-45).

However, Wu in view of Hogan et al. does not expressly disclose wherein if one or more participant parties are unavailable for initial audio connection, then said call facility automatically re-attempts audio connection to said one or more participant parties unavailable for initial audio connection a predetermined number of times before dropping said one or more participant parties unavailable for initial audio connection. In an analogous art, Culbreth et al. disclose wherein if one or more participant parties are unavailable for initial audio connection, then said call facility automatically re-attempts audio connection to said one or more participant parties unavailable for initial audio connection a predetermined number of times before dropping said one or more participant parties unavailable for initial audio connection (figure 1, reference step 130, col. 5, lines 1-5, col. 5, lines 34-35, and col. 9, lines 10-18).

One skilled in the art would have recognized the call facility automatically re-attempts audio connection to said one or more participant parties unavailable for initial audio connection a predetermined number of times before dropping said one or more participant parties unavailable for initial audio connection, and would have applied Culbreth et al.'s call facility in Wu's coordinating server device. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention, to use Culbreth et al.'s personal telephony agent in Wu's method and system for coordinating and initiating cross-platform telephone conferences with the motivation being to reserve a room and send a confirmation message to the team (col. 5, lines 38-39).

Furthermore, Wu in view of Hogan et al. and Culbreth et al. does not expressly disclose:

wherein, if the host is unavailable the call control engine disconnects and at least one of removes the audio conference information associated with the future audio conference request from the conference call database, and retries the host before canceling the conference call; and

wherein the information associated with the future audio conference request is removed from the conference call database in response to the bridging facility the audio connections between the host party and the at least one participant.

In an analogous art, Palmer et al. disclose:

wherein, if the host is unavailable the call control engine disconnects and at least one of removes the audio conference information associated with the future audio conference request from the conference call database (figure 20, reference 600, col. 18,

lines 16-21)(col. 18, lines 33-35), and retries the host before canceling the conference call (col. 18, lines 61-65); and

wherein the information associated with the future audio conference request is removed from the conference call database in response to the bridging facility the audio connections between the host party and the at least one participant (col. 18, lines 33-35).

One skilled in the art would have recognized the wherein, if the host is unavailable the call control engine disconnects and at least one of removes the audio conference information associated with the future audio conference request from the conference call database, and would have applied Palmer et al.'s DECspin application in Wu's coordinating server device. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention, to use Palmer et al.'s video teleconferencing for networked workstations in Wu's method and system for coordinating and initiating cross-platform telephone conferences with the motivation being to provide the user for further instructions, such as retry or cancel (col. 18, lines 61-65).

For claim 28, Wu discloses wherein the wireless device include a cellular telephone (figure 1, reference 142a-c), the cellular telephone being in radio communication with a base station, the base station being connected to a mobile switching center (MSC), the mobile switching center (figure 1, reference 136, wireless network 136 (e.g., CDMA, TDMA, PHS, GPRS, GSM, etc.)) being connected to the

PSTN (figure 1, reference 112, a bidirectional link is connected between PSTN 112 and wireless network 136).

5. Claims 9-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wu (US 6,275,575) in view of Hogan et al. (US 5,483,587), Culbreth et al. (US 5,953,393) and Palmer et al. (US 5,546,324) further in view of Roy (US 6,697,341).

For claim 9, Wu in view of Hogan et al., Culbreth et al. and Palmer et al. do not expressly disclose wherein the host destination is an Internet Protocol address. In an analogous art, Roy discloses wherein the host destination is an Internet Protocol address (col. 2, lines 46-54). Roy discloses further wherein the at least one participant party destination is an Internet Protocol address (col. 2, lines 46-54 as set forth in claim 10).

One skilled in the art would have recognizes the host destination is an Internet Protocol address, and would have applied Roy's start-up signals include information regarding the destination addresses in Wu's coordinating server device. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention, to use Roy's apparatus and method for providing multimedia conferencing services with selective performance parameters in Wu's method and system for coordinating and initiating cross-platform telephone conferences with the motivation being to provide an operator of the user device 100 to communicate with the user devices 106, 108, 112 (col. 2, lines 46-49).

5. Claims 29 and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wu (US 6,275,575) in view of Hogan et al. (US 5,483,587), Culbreth et al. (US

5,953,393) and Palmer et al. (US 5,546,324) further in view of Buskirk, Jr. (US 6,178,183).

For claim 29, Wu discloses wherein the wireless device includes a personal digital assistant (PDA) (figure 1, 142a, col. 2, line 59), the PDA being connected to the Internet (figure 1, reference 124) and PSTN (figure 1, reference 112) where the public switch is located within the PSTN (being connected to the PSTN means)(col. 5, lines 10-18).

However, Wu in view of Hogan et al., Culbreth et al. and Palmer et al. does not expressly disclose an Internet service provider (ISP) the ISP being connected to a public switch and the Internet. In an analogous art, Buskirk, Jr. discloses an Internet service provider (ISP) the ISP (figure 4, reference 413) being connected to a public switch (figure 4, reference 403) and the Internet (col. 5, lines 8-7).

One skilled in the art would have recognized the Internet service provider (ISP), and would have applied Buskirk, Jr.'s Internet service provider in Wu's coordinating server device. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention, to use Buskirk, Jr.'s method and apparatus for receiving conventional telephone calls while connected to the Internet in Wu's method and system for coordinating and initiating cross-platform telephone conferences with the motivation being to provide access for users to the Internet.

For claim 30, Wu discloses wherein the computer (figure 1, 120, col. 5, line 16) is being connected to the Internet (figure 1, reference 124) and PSTN (figure 1, reference

112 where the public switch is located within the PSTN (and being connected to the PSTN means), col. 5, lines 10-18).

However, Wu in view of Hogan et al., Culbreth et al. and Palmer et al. does not expressly disclose an Internet service provider (ISP) the ISP being connected to a public switch and the Internet. In an analogous art, Buskirk, Jr. discloses an Internet service provider (ISP) the ISP (figure 4, reference 413) being connected to a public switch (figure 4, reference 403) and the Internet (col. 5, lines 8-7).

One skilled in the art would have recognized the Internet service provider (ISP), and would have applied Buskirk, Jr.'s Internet service provider in Wu's coordinating server device. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention, to use Buskirk, Jr.'s method and apparatus for receiving conventional telephone calls while connected to the Internet in Wu's method and system for coordinating and initiating cross-platform telephone conferences with the motivation being to provide access for users to the Internet.

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.
7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to TOAN D. NGUYEN whose telephone number is (571)272-3153. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (7:00AM-4:30PM).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Firmin Backer can be reached on 571-272-6703. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/T. D. N./

Examiner, Art Unit 2416

/FIRMIN BACKER/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2416